

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph starting at page 4, line 19 and ending at line 22.

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a porous material formed of a plurality of particles, comprising the particle comprised of the above structure.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph starting at page 16, line 15 and ending at page 17, line 14.

For example, there ~~are~~ is a method in which the fine pore surface is modified with a silane coupling agent, and a method in which the fine pore surface is modified with an aqueous solution of a metal salt containing a metal capable of forming an oxide. The silane coupling agent is a compound generally represented by the chemical formula $R-Si-X_3$, and having two or more different functional groups in a molecule thereof. The X denotes a site capable of reacting with the surface of the porous material made of an inorganic material. For example, in Journal of Sol-Gel Science, 1989, 662, a case where a mesoporous material is silicon oxide is described; the hydrogen atoms of the silanol groups located on the fine pore surface are substituted with organic silicon groups to form the Si-O-Si-R bonds, and thus a layer of an organic matter R is formed on the fine pore surface; examples of X include a chloro group, an alkoxy group, an acetoxy group, an isopropenoxy group and an amino group. Needless to say, there can be used a silane coupling agent in which X is bifunctional or monofunctional as well as a silane coupling agent in which X is trifunctional as long as the silane coupling agent can react with the fine pore surface to form

the layer of R. R stands for an organic group such as an amino group, a carbonic group or a maleimide group.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph starting at page 25, line 7 and ending at line 11.

Next, an observation was carried out with ~~an~~ a scanning electron microscope (SEM) to find that there was formed a rod-shaped structure having a large number of branches (a structure having a dendritic framework) as shown in Figs. 2A and 2B.